

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY ADVANCES IN SNOWPLOWING

Snowplows in the late 1950s, such as the one pictured here, required two people to operate: a driver to navigate and a “wingman” to raise and lower the plow using the mechanical levers in the truck.

Operating these snowplows was no easy task. It involved a lot of muscle power and cabs were cramped and unheated. At the time, vee plows, named for their unique v-shape, were only able to push snow in two directions. This required plow drivers to do a lot of extra maneuvering just to get the snow pushed where they wanted it.

Technology in snowplowing has come a long way. Today, snowplows run on hydraulic systems. Only one person is needed to drive the truck and, with the touch of a button, raise and lower the plow. The advent of the reversible plow meant that snow could be pushed in any direction, not just straight ahead. Packed with more horsepower, new trucks can also push a lot more snow, while operators enjoy such creature comforts as heat and adjustable seats.

See page 8 for information on what to do during a snow event.



NOVEMBER ELECTION RESULTS VOTERS SELECT CITY COUNCIL FOR 2012

Familiar faces and one new representative will make up the Bloomington City Council beginning January 2012. Mayor Gene Winstead and Councilmember Vern Wilcox (District IV) were reelected to their seats in the November General Election that had a nearly 22 percent voter turnout.

Tim Busse, who currently holds the District III seat, was elected to the Councilmember At Large seat, left vacant by Amy Grady, who decided not to seek reelection.

Retired Real Estate Developer Jack Baloga was elected to the District III seat.

According to City Clerk Janet Lewis, 11,106 ballots were cast during the November 8 General Election.

“The City values residents’ responsiveness in local government and for taking time to exercise their right to vote on Election Day,” Lewis said.

MAYOR

GENE WINSTEAD, a Bloomington resident for 37 years, has served on numerous boards and commissions in the community. Winstead said he will continue to work to maintain the strong financial management and strength of the City.

“We will need to address the challenges of our changing and aging community,” Winstead said. “And work to keep vital all of our neighborhoods and renew commercial areas.”



COUNCILMEMBER, AT LARGE

Communications Director for University Services at the University of Minnesota **TIM BUSSE** will fill the Councilmember At Large seat after serving eight months in the District III seat left vacant by the resignation of Steve Elkins.

“It has been a great honor to represent and serve the community as a member of the City Council,” Busse said.



COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT III

Retired Commercial Real Estate Developer **JACK BALOGA** has served on the Bloomington Planning Commission for six years, Charter Commission for one year and Citizens Task Force for nearly two years. Baloga has also served as an election judge.

“As councilmember, I will continue to serve the citizens of District III by applying the significant knowledge I have obtained through years of civic and volunteer participation,” Baloga said.



COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT IV

VERN WILCOX has served on the City Council for the past 18 years. He hopes to use his experience to continue to give back to the community and preserve the quality of life in Bloomington.

“My 42-year history of community involvement has proven my ability to work with people to insure sound solutions to complex problems,” said Wilcox.



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When you see **WEBSITE KEYWORDS**, go to www.ci.bloomington.mn.us for more information.



FOR A QUICK RESPONSE SCAN AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE

The Bloomington *Briefing* now features a new tool to help you access more information about certain stories from your smartphone. Quick Response codes, or QR codes as they are referred to, are patterned square symbols similar to the barcodes you scan at the supermarket. The codes are able to be scanned and read using an application that you download on your smartphone. Once scanned, a QR code quickly reveals a Web page, image or geographic coordinates. Visit the City’s website for more information.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: QR CODES.

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WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SOCIAL MEDIA.

BLOOMINGTON IS A do. town

CITIES TEAM UP WITH BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD

Bloomington, Richfield and Edina are partnering with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota on a new initiative to remove barriers to healthy living in our community and support people in their efforts to be healthier. The initiative, called “do. town,” focuses on preventing illness caused by unhealthy eating and physical inactivity, see page 2. To get involved, visit do-town.org.

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DOING THE *do.town* RAMBLE
PROMOTING PREVENTION, PROTECTION AND RENEWAL

By Mayor Gene Winstead

Bloomington’s success is the result of decades of City leadership taking the long view in promoting continuous, cost-effective, quality community improvements. Examples include developments such as the Mall of America, maintenance and renewal of City facilities and infrastructure, including the Pavement Management Program, as well as more than \$75 million in facilities upgrades and equipment replacements.

More recent examples have focused community renewal in areas where demand for the original land uses has ebbed. Fortunately, this coincides with growing interest in creating higher density, mixed-use, transit-oriented developments, which the City does, while also providing protection for established single-family residential areas.

The City’s *Alternative Transportation Plan* makes the connection between all areas of the community, mass transit options and opportunities for recreation while at the same time implementing longer-term traffic-calming efforts that enhance

street safety. Updating the City’s Vision in *Imagine Bloomington 2025*, the City’s strategic plan for development, redevelopment, infrastructure, and fiscal strength and stability for the next 20 years, helped to unite our efforts strategically and make us an even more sustainable community.

One of the Vision’s attributes supports actions that promote physical well-being. The recently announced initiative with Bloomington, Richfield, Edina and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, “*do.town*,” has a similar vision: ***Communities where people live longer, healthier lives.*** Its mission: ***To create sustainable choices that support better health for all.***

The City can help achieve the *do.town* vision and mission through policies, systems and environmental changes that provide greater opportunities for physical fitness and encourage more healthy choices that may also reduce your daily amount of stress. While a City initiative, we serve more as catalyst than provider by promoting active lifestyles and better nutrition, creating more walkable, bikeable neighborhoods and further developing areas such as the South Loop, Penn-American and Normandale Lake districts that are less auto-dependent – connecting them to residential and recreational areas across the community.

The *do.town* initiative also invites employers to encourage better nutrition and physical activity among their employees. An initial group of 17 business owners from each of the three communities will participate in a *do.town* employer pilot to help develop models for others to follow. Such efforts may not only help lower longer-term health costs, but also boost employee morale and productivity.

Our bodies often seem to crave four food groups: sugar, salt, fat and chocolate. This is probably a holdover from a few generations ago when most



people labored for hours outdoors. These diets were essential to “fuel the furnace” for such arduously physical lives.

Today, these types of foods are craved more for comfort than nutrition. To move both body and mind to desire healthier alternatives may require continuing to expand improved nutritional opportunities such as the very successful Bloomington Farmers Market, now completing its fifth season. The Farmers Market offers a variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, breads, nuts and more. There will be one more opportunity to attend the Farmers Market this year on **Saturday, December 10, from 9 a.m. - noon**, at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

So “treat” yourself. Eat better. Exercise more. You’ll feel healthier in the shorter term with a better quality of life in the longer term. Engage in continuous, personal, quality improvements through prevention, protection and renewal. It will help you be in stride with the ever-growing number of people in Bloomington who are making the transformation to be more sustainable. In doing so, you will personally set an example for family and friends to follow and renew themselves.

December is a good month to get a “jump” start on the traditional New Year’s Eve resolution to get in better shape. Be as active as you can – pushing away from TV and table and moving toward a brighter future. Live longer, healthier lives thanks to *do.town*.



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The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY).

Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.



A LEGACY OF QUALITY STAFFING AND SERVICE
HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR KENT MICHAELSON RETIRES

Human Resources Director Kent Michaelson retired at the end of October after more than 35 years with the City, 33 of which he spent as Human Resources Director.

Initially hired as an assistant to the City Manager, when Michaelson was appointed Director of Human Resources at age 30, he was the youngest person in the City organization to lead a department.

“The quality and productivity of City services are directly attributable to Kent’s many efforts to align benefits across the organization, select the best

employees and train them in areas such as customer service that have paid great dividends with those we serve,” City Manager Mark Bernhardson said.

Over the course of his career, Michaelson estimates he has hired more than 1,500 employees – or enough people to replace the entire City staff three times over.

The average length of service for a City employee is 14 years, which, Michaelson said, speaks to the quality of the organization. He credits the City’s strong leadership, staff and work environment for the low turn-over.



“One of the best legacies we in Human Resources can leave behind is a high quality staff,” Michaelson said.

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2012 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

TOTAL CITY PROPERTY TAX LEVY WILL DROP IN 2012

At its September meeting, the City Council approved a preliminary levy of \$44,441,371 for 2012, a 0.25 percent decrease from 2011. It also approved a preliminary general operating fund budget of \$56,606,097, a 3.99 percent increase from the 2011 budget of \$54,436,064.

The City uses multi-year modeling, developed in the late 1990s, to track revenue and expenditures to predict upcoming trends for 2012. City staff also uses a five-year planning model that considers both short-term and future needs of the community to recommend a preliminary levy. To continue providing the quality level of City services that meet public demand, the City continues efforts to be cost effective. The preliminary levy can be reduced, but not increased, before final adoption in December. If the final 2012 levy is approved at this preliminary level, the average annual increase in the City's levy from 1993 - 2012 would be 3.3 percent. *See graph at right.*

For a Bloomington resident with a median value home of \$207,300, the monthly cost of City services is estimated to be \$67.82 for 2012, which is the same amount as 2010 and 2011. *See table above.*

In the past 12 years, even factoring in decreases, the median home value in Bloomington has increased in value an average of 4.3 percent per year.

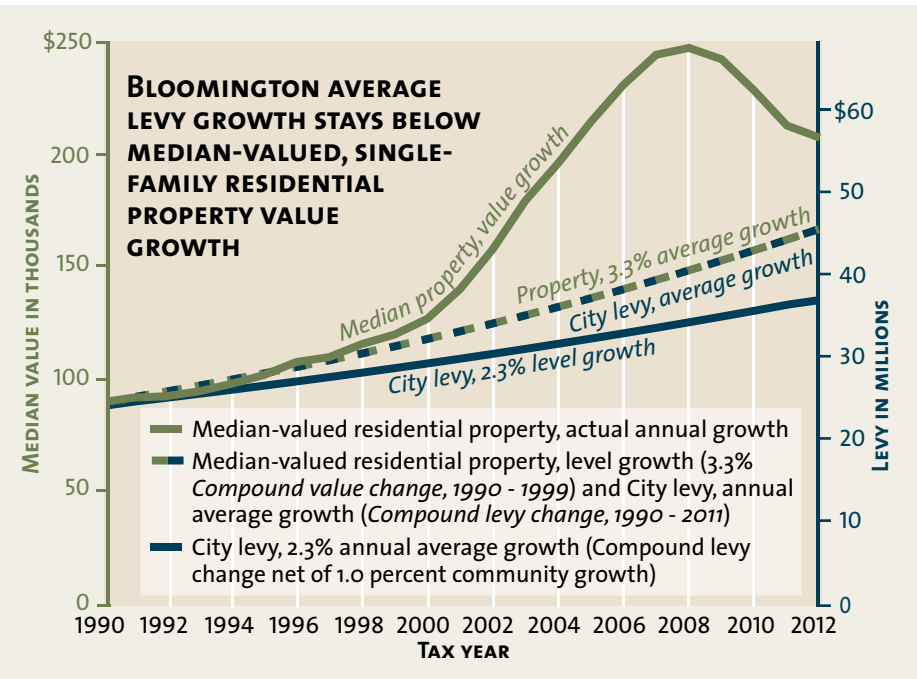
The City developed strategies in the 1990s to deal with normal economic cycle variations that helped make it a more sustainable community as reflected in the recently affirmed AAA bond ratings. (Visit the City's website for more information.) In setting the City's property tax levy for 2012 the City Council anticipated changes from the market value homestead credit program to a homestead exclusion program, and budgeted accordingly.

The old market value homestead credit was predicated on the state paying a portion of the property tax amounts for homeowners with property values less than \$413,800.



SINGLE-FAMILY HOME MONTHLY PROPERTY TAX COST FOR CITY SERVICES			
	2010	2011	2012
Median value home	\$67.82	\$67.82	\$67.82
Average value home	\$78.01	\$79.73	\$78.58

2012 Median value home - \$207,300; 2012 Average value home - \$235,500.



Though credited to those homeowners, Bloomington has actually not received most of these funds from the state for the past nine years. The new market value homestead exclusion actually reduces the taxable value of a home on a sliding scale.

One of Bloomington's strengths has been the diversity of the base on which the property tax-supported City services that are provided to Bloomington's residents and businesses are allocated. Historically, tax capacity in Bloomington has been split approximately in half between residential, including apartment uses, and commercial/ industrial uses. However, the current economic climate has seen greater variability of real estate values than in better economic times.

"The City levies a specific dollar amount needed to maintain certain levels of services," Chief Financial Officer Lori Economy-Scholler said.

"In simple terms, this dollar amount is then portioned to all properties in the community based on value."

Even with total property tax dollar levy decreases, the City's multiyear modeling indicates that property tax levies over the next five years should remain below the long-term home value appreciation plus community growth as Bloomington works for the longer term to be even more sustainable.

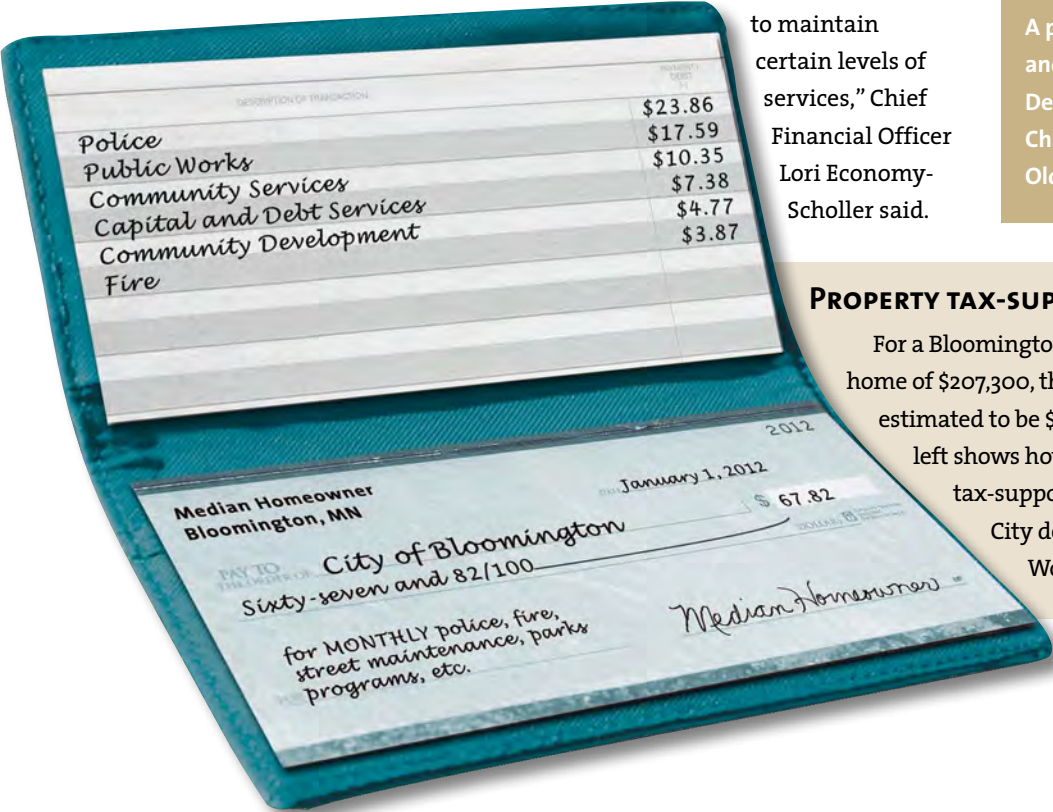
For more information, contact Chief Financial Officer Lori Economy-Scholler at 952-563-8791 or e-mail leconomy@ci.bloomington.mn.us. For property valuation information, contact City Assessor Matt Gersemehl at 952-563-8708 or mgersemehl@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

A public hearing on the tax levy and budget will be held Monday, December 5, at 7 p.m., in the Council Chambers at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

PROPERTY TAX-SUPPORTED SERVICES

For a Bloomington resident with a median value home of \$207,300, the monthly cost of City services is estimated to be \$67.82 for 2012. The checkbook at left shows how the monthly cost of property tax-supported services is divided among City departments, such as Police, Public Works, Community Services and Fire.



SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY

CITY COUNCIL SEEKS ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

The Bloomington City Council is seeking applicants to serve on its advisory boards and commissions for terms beginning in January, 2012. Meetings are held at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

The following advisory boards and commissions are seeking applicants:

Board of Appeal and Equalization – Hears appeals of property values established by City assessors. Members must have experience as an appraiser, realtor, real estate attorney or property manager.

Human Rights Commission – Advises the City Council on matters regarding human rights and mediates complaints of discrimination.

Merit Board – Oversees the administration of the City's merit system for City employees. Maintains policies for Human Resources.

Planning Commission – Holds public hearings and makes recommendations on land use, development strategies and zoning.

Applications must be received by **Friday, December 16**, for consideration. There will be an interview process after the application process closes.

For more information, visit the City's website or call the City Manager's Office at 952-563-8780.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: ADVISORY BOARD.



2012 HOME IMPROVEMENT FAIR

IDEAS, CONTRACTORS AND ADVICE FOR YOUR PROJECTS

The City of Bloomington will host its 10th Home Improvement Fair, **Saturday, February 25, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**, at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

Fairgoers will have the opportunity to visit a variety of home improvement exhibits, have questions answered by professionals and get ideas for remodeling projects. There will be activities and entertainment for kids, including booths where children may create their own projects.

Registrations for fair booths will be accepted **through December 15**. Companies and contractors interested in reserving a booth or presenting a seminar should call the number below.

For more information, contact Housing and Redevelopment Authority Program Manager Bryan Hartman at 952-563-8943 or e-mail bhartman@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: HOME FAIR.



DOES YOUR HOUSE NEED TLC?

HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS

The Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) will be accepting applications January 9 through March 9 for its Home Improvement Deferred Loan Program. Loans of up to \$35,000 are available to Bloomington homeowners. There are no monthly payments. Repayment occurs when the home is sold, transferred or conveyed. Interest is charged at an annual rate of 4 percent of the original loan principal for the first 10 years. No additional interest accrues after 10 years.

A lead risk assessment is required for all homes built before 1978.

The loans help maintain the condition of housing and neighborhoods. Applications are ranked and processed according to need. Eligible repairs include replacing roofs, electrical, heating and plumbing systems, gutters, windows, doors, insulation, siding, soffits and fascia, exterior painting, and foundation, sidewalk or step repairs.

Ineligible repairs include decorating, additions, finishing basements, remodeling and garage construction.

To apply for a Home Improvement Deferred Loan, you must be the owner-occupant of your home and have sufficient equity to cover the loan amount. Income guidelines apply. See table below.

INCOME GUIDELINES

1	\$44,950
2	\$51,400
3	\$57,800
4	\$64,200
5	\$69,350
6	\$74,500
7	\$79,650
8 or more	\$84,750

Includes all residents of household, related and unrelated, including renters. Subject to change.

Loan applications will be accepted at the HRA office in Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, until Friday, March 9, 2012. For more information or to receive an application, visit our website or call the HRA at 952-563-8937.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: HOME LOANS.

Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it's saving energy or guarding Bloomington's precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action...

EARTH ACTION HEROES
OXMORE POND PROTECTOR

Excessive fertilizer use, feeding of ducks and geese, yard debris and pet waste can all be sources of nutrients in water bodies and wetlands. An overabundance of these nutrients can pose a problem because they fuel excessive plant and algae growth.

One way to combat this problem is to install a native buffer area. Resident Bill Parks, at right, whose property is adjacent to Oxmore Pond (located between Oxborough Avenue South and Morris Road), created his own buffer area beginning in 2006.

For Parks, a Bloomington resident for nearly 40 years, installing a buffer area made perfect sense.

"I thought it was a great idea because I'd be doing something for the environment and saving myself the time of mowing the area," Parks said.

Buffer areas can be rainwater gardens or any combination of native or wild grasses and plants that prevent runoff from fertilizers and other chemicals used on lawns.

Parks' buffer zone is a collection of ornamental grasses, mostly Foerster and varieties of Silver grasses. Other neighbors around Oxmore Pond have followed in Park's footsteps, creating their own natural buffer areas along the water's edge.

"They're very nice and look good during the summer," Parks said. "During the winter we have seeds in the plumes, so it offers a nice variety. The neighbors across the way like it, too."

Bloomington Water Resources Specialist Brian Gruidl says the City encourages the planting of buffer areas to help stabilize shorelines against erosion and improve overall water quality.

"Long-term control of overabundant aquatic plants is best accomplished by reducing nutrient sources from the wetland," Gruidl said.

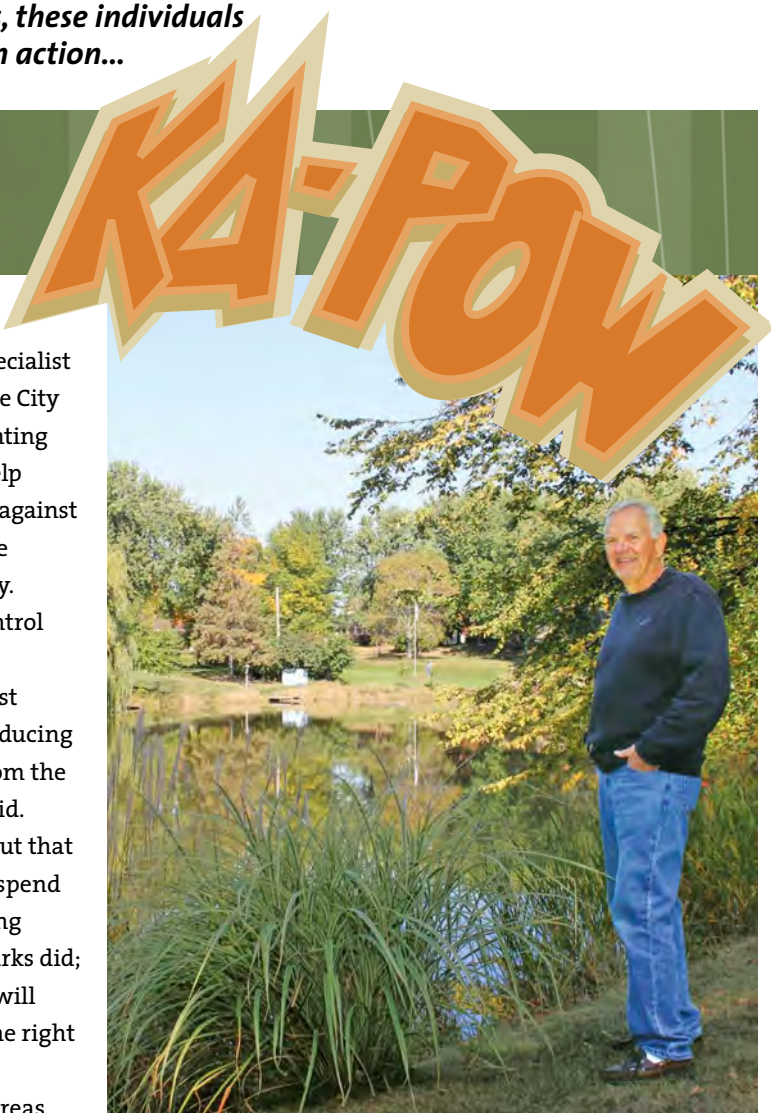
Gruidl points out that residents need not spend any money installing native grasses as Parks did; many buffer areas will occur naturally if the right steps are taken.

"Often buffer areas are established simply by reducing the amount of mowing near lakes and wetlands," Gruidl said. "By reducing mowing and herbicide use, vegetation that would have been present naturally will begin to reestablish itself."

Planting the native buffer area has proven to be a time-saver when it comes to yard work. Parks no longer has to mow down to the pond's edge.

DO YOU LIVE ALONG A SHORELINE?

Bloomington residents who live along shorelines can implement erosion control measures and improve water quality by maintaining 10- to 20-foot strips of unmowed vegetation around wetlands and limiting their use of fertilizers. For more information, contact Engineering at 952-563-4870.



His efforts in sustainable lawn care go beyond installing a buffer; Parks also mulches his leaves, a practice that returns vital nutrients to the soil. Yet, he doesn't consider himself an environmentalist.

"I'm not Mr. Green," he said. "But when I can do my little bit to help the environment, and it works for me, then I do it."

HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT

PLANTING SOME GREEN

CITY PARTNERS WITH TREE TRUST TO PLANT 40 TREES

The City once again partnered with Tree Trust to plant 40 trees of six different species at Marsh Lake Park, 9000 France Avenue South.

"The trees will be a tremendous benefit to the city, as they will add aesthetic appeal and shade for the users of Marsh Lake Park for years to come," Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Paul Edwardson said.

While volunteers from Tree Trust installed the trees, the City will maintain and care for them.

Tree Trust is a nonprofit organization that employs diverse urban populations in community forestry and environmental programs.

For more information, contact Paul Edwardson at 952-563-8762 or e-mail pedwardson@ci.bloomington.mn.us.



A NEW WAY TO WORK
494 COMMUTER SERVICES

Are you considering a different way to get to work every day? 494 Commuter Services can help by providing the following resources:

- **Ridematch list** – Individuals with a similar work trip who are interested in sharing the ride.
- **Transit information** – Personalized trip planner and pocket schedules for the bus or train.
- **Bike commuting** – Map showing recommended on-street bike routes and off-road bike trails, tips for biking to work, and Minnesota bike laws.

For more information, visit www.494corridor.org.



YOUR LINK TO THE NEW LINDAU LANE PROJECT PAVES THE PATH FOR THE SOUTH LOOP DISTRICT



A major improvement project on Lindau Lane will maximize jobs, improve safety and leverage private retail, office, hotel, restaurant and residential developments in Bloomington’s South Loop District, an urban center at the crossroads of the metro area’s transportation network.

Lindau Lane currently runs between Mall of America (MOA) and retailer IKEA, from TH 77 east to 24th Avenue. See map, above right. The Lindau Lane improvement project will extend the street to 30th Avenue. The project also incorporates safety improvements to reduce crashes near IKEA Way at Lindau Lane, Bloomington’s highest-crash intersection.

The entire project will create 350 on-site and 650 indirect (off-site supplier and manufacturing) jobs. By 2020, development leveraged by the street improvements is projected to provide an additional 8,000 jobs in South Loop.

According to Community Development Director Larry Lee, extending Lindau Lane will set the stage for the type of pedestrian-oriented,



urban development the City wants to promote in the South Loop District.

“The project will make the area more pedestrian-friendly and accessible,” Lee said. “Public space along the new street will serve as a gathering place for the community and connect the district’s two signature developments – MOA and Bloomington Central Station. Lindau Lane will also be designed to encourage walking, biking and the use of bus transit.”

The reconfigured and extended Lindau Lane is a key element of the South Loop District Plan. The plan intends to leverage federal, state and regional investments already in place, such as light rail and bus transit, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, regional freeways and the

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. It also takes advantage of private investments, including MOA, Bloomington Central Station and sites that are ripe for development.

Funding for the project will come from the State of Minnesota and the City’s liquor and lodging tax revenues. Property taxes from residents and businesses will not be used for the City’s portion of the funding.

Preparation for the Lindau Lane project is underway with construction scheduled to begin in 2012.

For more information on South Loop developments, visit the City’s website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SOUTH LOOP.



WATCH FOR FLASHING YELLOW LIGHTS NEW CROSSWALK SIGNS IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY



To improve the safety and visibility of pedestrians crossing at Oak Grove Middle School, West 106th Street, and Jefferson High School, West 102nd Street, the City installed new crosswalks and Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon signs.

According to Traffic Engineer Amy Marohn, one of the key factors in improving pedestrian crossing safety is to improve pedestrian visibility.

“Current research that evaluated several pedestrian crossing treatments showed that driver awareness of pedestrians was greatly enhanced when pedestrian-activated flashing beacons were added to the crosswalk signs,” Marohn said.

Using the signs is as easy as pushing the buttons that activate the flashing yellow lights.

Responsibility of drivers

Minnesota Statute 169.011 states that a driver must stop to yield to a pedestrian that is within the crosswalk. The driver may proceed only after the pedestrian has passed the lane in which the vehicle is traveling.

Responsibility of pedestrians

Pedestrians approaching a roadway to cross should wait for a gap in traffic before leaving the curb. Pedestrians are considered “in the crosswalk” once they have left the curb, but not when still standing on the side of the road. Pedestrians should only cross within a marked crosswalk or at an intersection (marked or unmarked, this is still a legal crosswalk). Remember always to try to make eye contact with approaching drivers to ensure that they are aware of your presence in the crosswalk.

For more information, contact Amy Marohn at amarohn@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

TH 169/I-494 INTERCHANGE PROJECT UPDATE RECONFIGURATION ON SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION IN FALL 2012

The TH 169/I-494 interchange project that began last spring is on schedule for completion in November 2012. The interchange reconstruction will improve safety and mobility along TH 169 by converting the expressway to freeway-equivalent functionality.

- Project work includes:
- Reconstructing the interchange by replacing the stoplights with six freeway-to-freeway ramps.
 - Removing traffic signals along TH 169.
 - Connecting the north and south frontage roads under TH 169 through a series of roundabouts.

In 2011, northbound TH 169 and the new Washington Avenue Bridge spanning I-494 were completed and four of the six roundabouts on the

frontage road system were scheduled to be open to traffic. Construction will continue this winter on retaining walls and bridges in the interchange area.

Throughout the winter, traffic on northbound TH 169 will travel on the reconstructed portion of the northbound lanes. Southbound traffic will remain in its current configuration until 2012. In addition, the right in/right out traffic configuration at Highwood Drive and TH 169 will remain in place until 2012.

Frontage roads on I-494 will reopen over the winter. However, there will be no access to the scheduled underpasses



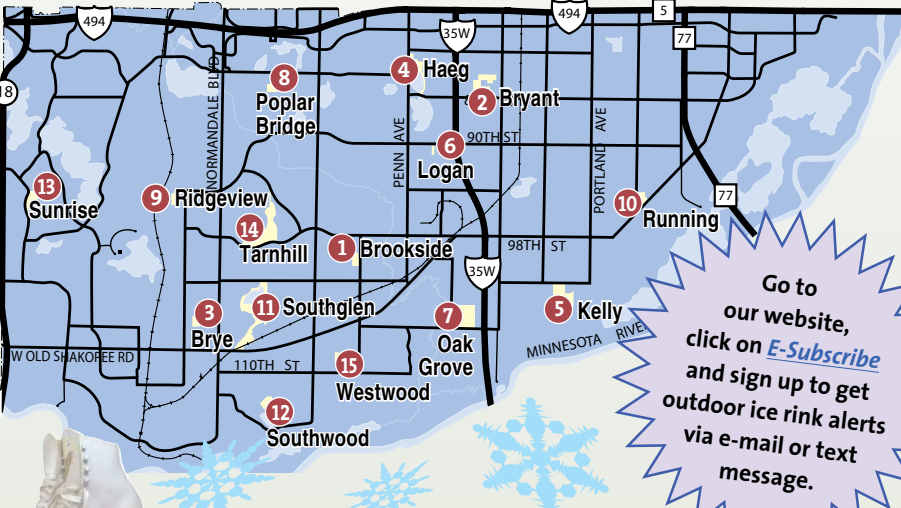
of TH 169. These underpasses will be constructed in 2012.

For more information, call the project hotline at 877-563-4768, contact Deputy Director of Public Works Jim Gates at 952-563-8730 or visit the City’s website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: 169 494 IMPROVEMENTS.

2011 - 2012 OUTDOOR SKATING RINKS

Parks and Recreation will operate 15 outdoor ice skating rink sites this winter. During rink hours, all facilities will be lighted, with the exception of Logan Playlot. Some sites are supervised by Parks and Recreation employees during public skating hours. See below. Weather permitting, park shelters will be open Saturday, December 17, 2011, through Monday, February 20, 2012. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation. For up-to-date rink conditions and closings, call 952-563-8878 and select option 3.



LOCATIONS AND FEATURES			RINK		
PARK	ADDRESS	STAFFING	General	Hockey	Floodlights
1 Brookside	10000 Xerxes Ave. S.	Daily	•	•	•
2 Bryant	1001 W. 85th St.	Wknds, SRD, holidays	•	•	•
3 Brye	10500 Xavier Ave. S.	Wknds, SRD, holidays	•	•	•
4 Haeg	8301 Penn Ave. S.	Not staffed*	•	•	•
5 Kelly	185 E. 102nd St.	Not staffed*	•	•	•
6 Logan	1900 W. 91st St.	Not staffed	•		
7 Oak Grove	1301 W. 104th St.	Wknds, SRD, holidays	•	•	•
8 Poplar Bridge	4600 W. 85th St.	Wknds, SRD, holidays	•	•	•
9 Ridgeview	6001 W. 94th St.	Not staffed*	•	•	•
10 Running	9501 12th Ave. S.	Daily	•	2	•
11 Southglen	10701 Rich Road	Not staffed*	•	•	•
12 Southwood	4800 Terracewood Dr.	Not staffed*	•	•	•
13 Sunrise	9401 Blmgtn. Ferry Rd.	Daily	•	•	•
14 Tarnhill	9650 Little Road	Not staffed*	•	•	•
15 Westwood	3490 W. 109th St.	Daily	•	2	•

RINK HOURS		
DAY OF WEEK	REGULAR	SCHOOL RELEASE DAYS (SRD)
	December 17 - 22, 2011	December 23 - January 2
	January 3 - February 20, 2012	January 17, 24 and February 21
M - F	4 - 9 p.m.	Noon - 7 p.m.
Sa - Su	Noon - 7 p.m.	Noon - 7 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lights on at rinks during scheduled hours.PLEASE NOTE Holiday hours for staffed rinks are 2 - 7 p.m. on the following days: December 24 and 25, 2011. January 1, 2012. February 5, 2012 (Super Bowl Sunday). <p>*Staffed on a volunteer basis only. Schedules are posted on the website. To volunteer, contact Jackie Doncavage at 952-563-4949.</p>		

STAYING ACTIVE YEAR-ROUND

WINTER FETE IS BACK
MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Join Bloomington Parks and Recreation and local sponsors in welcoming winter during the 10th annual Winter Fete celebration. Winter Fete activities will take place throughout the city, Saturday, January 21, through Sunday, January 29. Once again the City will host a Family Chill Out and Ice Fishing Event on Saturday, January 21, Winter Fete History Festival on Sunday, January 29, and other exciting events during this week-long celebration.

All activities are free, unless otherwise noted, and fun for the whole family! For more information, call Parks and Recreation.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: WINTER FETE.



VOLUNTEERS IN DEMAND
GET A HEAD START ON SUMMER

If you can't wait for the warmer weather to return, start thinking spring and summer by signing up to volunteer for Bloomington Parks and

Recreation spring and summer programs. Participating in these programs is an enjoyable, rewarding experience and a great way to give back to your community. Volunteer positions are available at a variety of programs and events, including Camp Kota, Summer Adventure Playgrounds, Farmers Market and adaptive softball.

For more details on these opportunities, contact Parks and Recreation or e-mail parksrec@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: VOLUNTEER.



ENJOY PLAYING VOLLEYBALL?
MEET THE BORN AGAIN JOCKS

The Born Again Jocks volleyball league welcomes men, 55 years and older, of all skill levels. Games are held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m., at Jefferson High School, 4001 West 102nd Street. For more information, call Don Wilkie at 952-884-2146 or Paul Johnson at 612-866-4428.

PLAN THE PERFECT GET-TOGETHER
RESERVE PICNIC SHELTERS FOR YOUR NEXT OUTDOOR EVENT



Picnic shelters will soon be available to rent for next year's picnics, receptions, reunions and meetings. Registration begins January 2 for use April through mid-October. Shelters have electricity, grills, restrooms and drinking fountains. City parks offer playground equipment, volleyball and horseshoe courts, trails, and softball fields.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: PICNIC SHELTER RENTAL.

EAST BUSH LAKE PARK

9140 East Bush Lake Road.
Shelter 3: Accommodates 200.
\$289 + tax.

WEST BUSH LAKE PARK

94th Street at West Bush Lake Road.
Shelter 1: Accommodates 200.
\$219 + tax.
Shelter 2: Accommodates 100.
\$149 + tax.

MOIR PARK

104th Street at Morgan Avenue.
Shelter 1: Accommodates 200+.
\$219 + tax.
Shelter 2: Accommodates 50.
\$149 + tax.



BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN
ENJOY OUR INDOOR SKATING RINKS

Bloomington Ice Garden (BIG), 3600 West 98th Street, has three indoor ice rinks available for public skating and adult open hockey.

Professional instructors are available to offer a variety of skating lessons for children and adults.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: BIG.



HELPING HANDS
CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

A group of Household and Outside Maintenance for Elderly (H.O.M.E.) volunteers from Farmers Insurance helped 80-year-old resident Eleanor combat weeds, trim tree branches and wash windows at her home. Eleanor began using H.O.M.E.'s services after her husband died 10 years ago.

"The volunteers did a great job," Eleanor said. "I couldn't have done it without them."

H.O.M.E. makes it possible for residents, ages 55 and older, to live independently by assisting with everyday household chores such as painting and yard work.

For more information on this City-sponsored program, call H.O.M.E. Program Director Kitty Engle at 952-888-5530.

MEET A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER
GET TO KNOW STEVE JORSCHUMB

No one enjoys having to rush out the door at a moment's notice or leave their loved ones unexpectedly, but 14-year Bloomington Fire Department (BFD) veteran and City Senior Engineering Technician Steve Jorschumb is used to doing just that.

Q What is the most challenging aspect of your job? *Balancing my time can be tough.*

Q How does your family feel about you being a firefighter? *I think it helps that my wife grew up with her dad being on a volunteer fire department. She was used to him running off when a call came in, so she knew what she was getting into when I joined the BFD.*

Q Do you have a scariest moment? *I witnessed two firefighters nearly fall through the floor of a burning building while I was operating the ladder truck. Thankfully, they ended up being okay.*

Q What do you do when you're not at work or volunteering? *My kids keep me pretty busy with recitals and sports. I also volunteer at Sunday school.*



Visit the City's website for more information on making a difference by becoming a Bloomington volunteer firefighter.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FIRE VOLUNTEERS.



'TIS THE SEASON
AVOID BEING A VICTIM

Before being caught up in the chaos of the holiday season, take a minute or two to review the following safety tips from the Bloomington Police Department.

- If you plan on traveling, set an automatic timer for your lights and ask a neighbor to watch your home and collect newspapers and mail.
- If you are going out, turn on a light or radio so it appears that someone is home.
- Lock all doors and windows while you are out, even if it is for a few minutes. Do not place packages or gifts where they are visible from outside.
- When at home, turn on an outside light to deter burglars. Report any suspicious activity by calling 9-1-1.
- When you go shopping, park in well-lit spaces and lock your doors. Hide bags and purses in your trunk before arriving at your next destination.

Get to know your neighbors by joining our Neighborhood Watch Program. For more information, call Officer Heidi Miller at 952-563-4975 or e-mail hmillier@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Located in Bloomington Civic Plaza at the corner of West 98th Street and Old Shakopee Road, the Center for the Arts is a first-class facility housing seven arts organizations. For facility information, call 952-563-8889. For exhibit information and events, visit www.bloomingtonartcenter.com and click on Exhibitions, or call 952-563-8575.

GALLERY HOURS

Hours: M - F 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Sa 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Su 1 - 10 p.m.

For all theater tickets, call the Box Office at 952-563-8575.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS:
CENTER FOR THE ARTS.

GIFTS IN THE GALLERY



This fantastic annual holiday sale, featuring works by local artists, runs December 7 - 21. A festive reception is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, 6 - 8 p.m.

INEZ GREENBERG GALLERY

LACE AND GUNPOWDER: THE MALE/FEMALE ART EXHIBITION



The Fire Tamer by Tina Blondell.

This exhibit featuring works by four male and female pairs of artists working in different artistic genres, runs January 13 - February 17.

Artists' reception is Thursday, February 9, 7 p.m.

SCHNEIDER THEATER

THE CROSBY - CLOONEY STORY: "FANCY MEETING YOU HERE"

Frequent singing partners Arne Fogel and Maud Hixson will bring back the spirit of Crosby and Clooney, Saturday, December 10, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$22 adults; \$19 seniors/students.

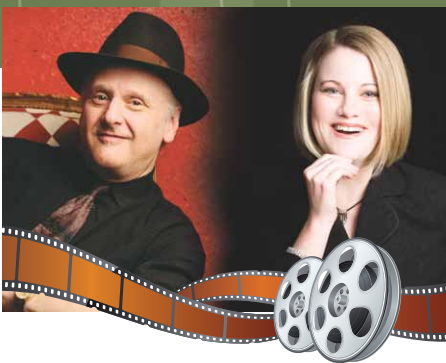
SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

The Medalist Band presents *Sounds of the Season*, a combination of traditional and contemporary favorites, Sunday, December 11, 4 p.m. Tickets are \$22 adults; \$10 seniors/students.

SONGS OF THE SEASON

The NOTE-able Singers present *Songs of the Season*, featuring such holiday hits as *Winter Wonderland* and *Santa Baby*, Thursday, December 15, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 adults, \$10 seniors/students.

HOLLY, HARP & FIDDLE



The Bloomington Chorale transports you to the British Isles with Celtic and Old English songs, Saturday, December 17, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 18, 4 p.m. Tickets are \$14 adults; \$10 seniors/students.



FIRE PREVENTION
ENSURE YOUR HOME IS SAFE

Bloomington Fire Prevention recommends the following tips to prevent home fires:

- Choose holiday decorations that are flame resistant.
- Keep lit candles away from things that can burn.
- Replace lights with worn cords or loose bulb connections. Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Test all smoke alarms. Replace batteries if necessary.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles. Store matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stove top.

For information, contact Fire Marshal Gene Dugal at 952-563-8967 or gdugal@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FIRE PREVENTION.



WHAT IS A SNOW EMERGENCY?

A snow emergency is automatically in effect when three or more inches of snow have accumulated. When that happens, no parking is allowed on any city street for the following 48 hours or until the street has been plowed from curb to curb.

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT CITY RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN SALT STORAGE



The City of Bloomington was honored with a 2011 Excellence in Storage Award from the Salt Institute for environmental consciousness and effective management in the storage of winter road salt. Bloomington joined 159 transportation facilities across the United States and Canada that were honored. A five-time recipient, Bloomington is one of only two agencies in Minnesota to receive the award.

"These facilities have cleared a high bar in meeting our standards," said Salt Institute President Lori Roman. "For example, in minimizing runoff alone, 10 specific criterion must be met. This meticulous care is well worth the investment to protect motorists, the economy and the environment."

Having enough road salt on hand before storms hit requires advance planning and safe, efficient storage methods. Among other best practices specified by the Salt Institute, Excellence in Storage winners must store salt on a pad, covering it with a roof or other approved materials. Winners must also display proper maintenance of facilities and good housekeeping practices.

"The familiar sight of trucks spreading salt on icy winter roads gives motorists reassurance, as it should," said Roman. "If that salt was stored in a facility honored with an Excellence in Storage Award, motorists have the added assurance of knowing the utmost care has been taken to protect public safety and the environment."

For more information, contact Public Works Director Karl Keel at 952-563-8731 or kkeel@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

WHAT TO DO WHEN IT SNOWS

A WINTER SURVIVAL GUIDE

There's no getting around it. Winter and snow go hand in hand. The City helps people get through it, literally, with snowplowing services.

The City of Bloomington prides itself on its snow removal services. However, residents can help the City provide even better service during the snowy winter months. These illustrations show what you can do before and during a snow incident.

Please follow these tips for a safe winter.



FIRE HYDRANTS, MAILBOXES AND GARBAGE BINS

1 Keep your mailbox clear of snow to ensure mail delivery. The mailbox should not extend past the curb and should have a sturdy four-by-four lumber post. The bottom of the mailbox should be no less than 45 inches off the ground and on the left side of the driveway.

2 If it snows on or near collection day, keep garbage and recycling bins away from the end of the driveway and behind the curb.

3 The Fire Department asks residents to shovel out fire hydrants near their home. Accessible hydrants substantially reduce the time it takes firefighters to douse a fire.

PARKING GUIDELINES

4 Bloomington Police enforce the parking ban in a snow emergency. *See top left sidebar.* This ensures that all streets get fully plowed during a snowstorm. In case of a snow emergency, park in your driveway. To find out if a snow emergency has been declared, visit the [City's website](#) or call the Snow Emergency Hotline at 952-563-8768.

To receive snow alerts, scan the QR code below left or visit the City's website, click on [E-Subscribe](#) and sign up to receive e-mail or text message updates. You may also follow our snow alerts on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



CHILD SAFETY

5 Never allow children to build tunnels or snow forts in snow banks near the street. The force and weight of the snow coming off the plows can collapse the tunnels or forts and may harm a child.

6 Keep sleds and toys out of the street and far away from the edge of the road. Snowbanks make it difficult for plow operators to see children in these areas. Children should never play near the edge of the road.

MINIMIZE UNSAFE DRIVING CONDITIONS

7 After a snowstorm, the City makes every effort to clear snow as quickly as possible. Snowplows may plow already shoveled snow into driveways. To reduce the chance that you'll have to shovel more than once, wait to clear the end of your driveway until the plows have completed plowing your street.

8 Shovel, plow or blow snow away from the street.

9 Stake the edge of the sidewalk along your property to help reduce sod damage associated with plowing. The City recommends lightweight wooden stakes, like those available at most home improvement stores. Mark only the side closest to the house to give plow operators the room they need. (The machines need a minimum 55 inches of clearance.) Keep in mind these markers need to be inexpensive and temporary. They should easily give if hit without damaging the plow equipment.



For more information, visit the City's website or contact Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Jim Eiler at 952-563-8766 or e-mail jeiler@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SNOW EMERGENCY.